

Topic 9 - Design and History

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TITLE

CONTEMPORARY PLANNING ON THE HISTORICAL PATHWAY BASIS
The case study of Zagreb

ABSTRACT

This research reflects upon the student work on the Master Workshop of Landscape Architecture and PhD thesis hypothesis that deal with the problematic of Zagreb planning, various types of urban heritage and contemporary methods and interventions in public space of streets. The main historical starting point is the city of Zagreb and his connection to the surrounding settlements that during the urban growth of the city became parts of its neighbourhoods. The heritage of roads, pathways and specific spaces at the crossing are the focus of any transformation plans and project before but in the future as well.

Therefore this study has several levels planning, projects and problematic issues. Topic aspects that are important to compare are projects of 3 students dealing with: 1 - planning at the city level with the rediscovered potential of historical pathway diagonal; 2 - two designs of changing roads into urban streets; 3 - connecting issues of the existing public places of various scales.

Usual planning of the city of Zagreb had different approaches. The 19th century was epoch of block grid spreading to the south with the continuous concept of urban park-squares "Zagreb Horseshoe". In the years of large population growth in the 20th century, city started to spread on the east and west mostly unplanned with planned areas as sub-centres. Axial approach to planning prevailed in the modernistic visions and concepts. The contemporary master plan gives fewer visions, instead marking the important areas for future intervention as city projects. The study of Zagreb urban planning model, done by the student Ines Mravunac, proposes a new vision for the city interventions with "dual method" that came out of analysing axial planning, east-west spread and the city projects. It shows the connecting possibilities of all directions and various scales and types of planning interventions creating more connected urban areas and less individual small transformations.

From the design aspect in Zagreb there are crucial street issues. Therefore, the student Ivona Ivanek did the study of urban streets in Zagreb that outlines transformation possibilities of historical pathways. Two models of pathway are designed: one is urban-artery of the city connecting peripheries with the urban core and the other is urban-mix street connecting the block structure and the organic city. The same method of "double movement" is proposed for both models. Double movement includes places of motion and non-motion for pedestrians and cyclists, which encourage urban equity between periphery, centre and nature. Street planning will be able to have a significant impact on both the individual and the society by creating models of streets that will preserve freedom of each person to experience something that may differ from the experiences of others. Instead of being just a way of connecting, street duality is affirmed as a heritage. Method of double movement establishes space-temporal sequences that enable experiencing active urban and natural landscape as a new value.

If we compare "dual method" of planning and "double movement" concept of redesigning the streets there is an overlap in topic of junction – node or crossing – intersecting places with the vital planning, design and theoretical questions. Student Mia Mikula tries to answer these questions through the possibilities of Zagreb nodes. The nodes were analysed, categorised and tested on the urban relation and scenario from the city centre to the main bus station.

All three studies have the same conclusion that connections should be done always at multiple meanings connecting history and contemporary through heritage, spatially through balancing places of usages and multiple motions and theoretically discussing issues and solutions simultaneously on various scales.